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I now therefore call on Dr. Norton Shaw, the untiring promoter of every movement calculated to support geographical science, to answer for this our parting toast. (*Cheers.*)

DR. SHAW, in the name of his brother stewards and himself, having returned thanks for the compliment which had been paid them, the meeting separated.

CRAWFURD'S DICTIONARY.

A Descriptive Dictionary of the Indian Islands and adjacent Countries.

By JOHN CRAWFURD, F.R.S., F.R.G.S., etc.

THIS is a work very much in the same style as the *Oesterreichische National Encyclopædie*, in which all that relates in any important degree to the region to which it refers—geographical, biographical, zoological, historical, commercial, &c.—is arranged in an alphabetical manner. Thus, to instance the very first pages, we find Abaca, Abany, Abra, Achin, Adang, Agar-agar, Agila, Agno-Grande, Albay, Alboquerque, Alforas, Alligator, Amberggris, Amboyna, &c., names immediately or nearly succeeding each other as heads of so many articles. Elsewhere we find Dog, Dory Harbour, Dragon Blood, Drama, Dress (of the inhabitants of the Indian islands), Philippine Archipelago, Pigafetta, Pilgrimage, Pine-apple, Piracy, Polo (Marco), Polynesia, &c. These headings will sufficiently indicate the general scope of this Dictionary and its very comprehensive character. It appears to embrace considerations on every subject connected with that vast and interesting region, which extends from the Bay of Bengal to the northern shores of Australia, and comprises the largest islands on the surface of the globe. It has often occurred to us that a “British” National Encyclopædia, on a plan similar to that of the Austrian, or to the work before us, relating to every portion of territory under the British crown—its geography, productions, history, and celebrated natives—might be invested with the highest interest. On the face of the earth there cannot be found a dominion comprising regions so varied in character or more abounding in natural wealth, rich seats of commerce, valuable antiquities, and a history full of remarkable events, than that empire under which we live, and upon which the sun never sets.

The qualifications of Mr. Crawford to produce such a work as this “Descriptive Dictionary,” &c., are undoubted. Thirty-six years ago, when (as he tells us in his preface) he gave to the world his “History of the Indian Archipelago,” if we except Sir Stamford Raffles (under whom he filled an official appointment in Java), Mr. Crawford was nearly the only authority for most information concerning that previously little-known region. Since that period, Hogen-dorp and some other Dutch authors have made public statements respecting the Dutch possessions in the East; and, particularly in recent years, the names of Swart, Croockewit, Schwaner, Keijser, Müller, &c., appear as authors of written works or maps to be found in our own library. Megen in the Philippines, Sir James Brooke in Borneo, and Windsor Earl in the Eastern and South-Eastern part of the Archipelago, together with a few other travellers; our own Hydrographic Office; the Royal Institution for the Language, Geography, &c., of Dutch India; the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal,

a few Parliamentary Reports; the Singapore newspapers, and especially the Journal of the Indian Archipelago, edited by Mr. Logan, have contributed further information respecting different parts of this vast region. But no one that we are aware of, excepting Mr. Crawford, has ventured upon the labour of producing a systematic and comprehensive work on the subject, such as his 'History of the Indian Archipelago' and the volume before us. Doubtless the author has availed himself of all the foregoing sources of information, in addition to his personal knowledge of this part of Asia, and the researches which he had already made previously to the appearance of the works above indicated; and the result is a *catalogue raisonné* in reference to the islands of the Eastern Seas and adjacent countries, which ought to find a place in every geographical library.

As might be expected, the countries personally travelled in by Mr. Crawford are those which he has treated of at the greatest length. It is well known that he was more than thirty years ago a special envoy from the British Government to the courts of Anam and Siam, and on behalf of the British Sovereign concluded the treaty with the Burmese after the invasion of the empire of Ava in 1826. Accordingly, he has introduced into the Dictionary lengthened articles on Siam, Cochin China, and the adjacent countries, respecting which he is certainly one of the chief authorities, or we might more properly say, our principal and most trustworthy informant. He has also given a very extended and valuable account of the important island of Java, where he resided and held a distinguished position under Sir Stamford Raffles during its occupation by the British from 1811 to 1816; and he has treated to an adequate extent of Singapore, in which thriving settlement he is, we believe, a landed proprietor, and in which he succeeded Sir S. Raffles as governor.

We shall enter into no disquisition on the ethnological researches of our author, as with some of his conclusions many readers may not feel inclined to accord; but we cannot overlook the acuteness and value of some of his etymological remarks with which the Descriptive Dictionary is abundantly interspersed, and which our learned fellow-member is rendered highly competent to make, by his knowledge of some of the living languages of continental India, where Mr. Crawford resided for a considerable length of time.

In several of the articles old and long-persistent errors are for the first time corrected. Thus, for instance, the island known in maps as Gilolo, is described by Mr. Crawford under the name of "Almahera," as its proper appellation—Gilolo, or Jilolo, being merely the name of a bay and of a kingdom on the western side of the northern limb of the island in the time of the early Portuguese writers. On another hand unwarranted innovations are exposed. The name of Tanah-Kalamantan, or "Land of Mangoes," which has of late found its way into some books as applied at large to the great island of Borneo, is stated by Mr. Crawford to be only a Malay term, and a mythic, and neither a popular nor well-known name for that country.

Mr. Crawford, in many parts of this work, vigorously denounces the "violations of the sound principles of commercial policy" (p. 191), which, prompted by rapacity, the conquering European nations, the Portuguese, Spaniards, English, and Dutch, have more or less adopted in the Indian Archipelago. The production of its great staples—rice, spices, tin, &c.—has, as he shows, been fettered and cramped by the most narrow-minded and tyrannical regulations. As respects the clove, for example, and the periodical destruction of the trees producing it in islands beyond the Dutch dominion, Mr. Crawford remarks, "The Dutch Government has only to pursue a course exactly the reverse of that which it has followed for two centuries and a half, and it will be right. . . There seems no good reason to doubt that the consumption of cloves might, with equal cheapness and freedom, become co-extensive with that of pepper" (pp. 104-5). With respect to the production of tin in Banca, the author

adduces arguments against an ill-judged policy of a monopoly of the produce; and as to the general principles which have guided the European nations as regards the Eastern Archipelago generally, he says (p. 20), "All the four nations, for three long centuries, acting on a false and rapacious commercial theory, in so far as that theory is concerned, may safely be said to have marred, instead of promoted, the industry and civilization of the native inhabitants; and it is only within the present century that a wiser and more generous policy, not fully carried out by some of the parties even now, has been adopted." This stricture, founded as it is upon a personal acquaintance with the countries in question, is anything but creditable to Christian nations.

Some curious details are given under the head of "Krama," which is the name of the "polite dialect," or "ceremonial language" of the Javanese. In this idiom it seems that the great object to be attained has been the avoidance of all words and forms of expression to be found in the vulgar tongue. If a word should have become familiar, it is rejected from the ceremonial language. It is as if in our own country we were always to use words derived from the Greek, Latin, or French, in preference to those of Anglo-Saxon origin, and which are popularly understood—a practice which is not unknown under the latitudes and longitudes embracing the British islands. The general prevalence of such a dialect would tend to prove the correctness of the axiom attributed to Talleyrand—that language was given to man not so much to express his thoughts, as to hide them in obscurity.

Under the head "Grobogan," which is the title of an ancient kingdom, and now of one of the districts of Java, Mr. Crawford, on the authority of Dr. Horsfield, gives us an excellent description of the remarkable phenomenon of a mud-volcano. The author is wrong, however, in instancing it as "singular," since a similar expulsion of mud from beneath the surface of the earth takes place at Macaluba, in Sicily, and is well described by Captain Smyth in his valuable work on that island. In treating of Papandayang, also in Java, Dr. Horsfield (Dict., p. 327) has stated that this, which was formerly one of the largest volcanoes in the island, was for the most part swallowed up in the earth in 1772, an extent of high ground, fifteen miles in length and fully six broad, being thus engulfed. Such an event is obviously exactly the converse of the elevation of the volcano of Jorullo, in Mexico, in 1759, as described by Humboldt,* and of some subsequent upheavings of volcanoes in Central America. Next to the upheaving of Jorullo, which is unquestionably the most stupendous natural phenomenon, of which we have any record, that has occurred during the historical period, may be instanced as amongst the marvels of nature the vast eruption of the volcano of Tomboro, in the Indian Archipelago, in 1815.

* A concise account will be found in M'Culloch's Geog. Dict., ii. 91.